Make Them Laugh!

Humor

Webster's New World Dictionary defines humor as:

1. The ability to perceive, appreciate or express what is funny.

2. Any of the four fluids formerly considered responsible for one's health and disposition; blood, phlegm, lymph, or bile.

Take your pick!

"In matters of humor, what is appealing to one person is appalling to another."
---Melvin Helitzer

Math Majors' Cheers

e^x dy/dx
e^x dx
Cosine, secant, tangent, sine,
3.14159
Square root, cube root,
log base e
Let's go Bradley,
VICTORY!

-❖❖❖-

Radical transcendental π
Secant, cosine, tangent, sine,
3.14159
2.71828
Come on guys, let's integrate!

-❖❖❖-

Top 10 Reasons Why e is Inferior to π

10. e is less challenging to spell than pi.

9. e = 2.7182828459045... which can be easily memorized to its billionth place, whereas π needs 'skills' to be memorized.

8. The character for e is so cheap that it can be found on a keyboard. π, however, requires a special symbol.

7. π is the bigger piece of the pie.

6. e has an easy limit definition and infinite series. The limit definition of π and the infinite series are much harder.

5. Even though you don't study e until later in your mathematical studies, it is easy to understand. But π can even be difficult to understand after 5 or 6 years of study.

4. e is named for a person, but π stands for itself.

3. People mistakenly confuse Euler's Number (e) with Euler's Constant (gamma). There is no confusion with the one and only π.

2. π is much shorter and easier to say than 'Euler's Number.'

1. To read π, you don't even have to know that Euler's name is really pronounced 'oiler.'

-❋❋❋-

Quickies

- ✔ 5 out of every 4 people have trouble with fractions.
- ✔ Life is complex. There are real and imaginary parts.
- ✔ In topological hell, beer is packed in Klein's bottles.
- ✔ To a mathematician, real life is a special case.
- ✔ Parallel lines actually do meet, but they are very discrete.
- ✔ Great exercise: What does $(x - a)(x - b)(x - c)...(x - z)$ equal?
- ✔ We use epsilons and deltas in mathematics because mathematicians tend to make errors.
- ✔ There are only 10 types of people in the world - those who understand binary and those who don't.
- ✔ $1 + 1 = 3$ for large values of 1 and small values of 3.
- ✔ Factorials were invented to make math look more exciting.
- ✔ Math and alcohol don't mix, so ... Please don't drink and derive!
- ✔ MADD stands for Mathematicians Against Drunk Deriving
- ✔ The reason that every major university maintains a department of mathematics is that it is cheaper to do this than to instituionalize all of those people.
- ✔ The world is everywhere dense with idiots.
- ✔ $\lim_{8 \to 9} \sqrt{8} = 3$
- ✔ If God is perfect, why did He create discontinuous functions?
- ✔ A statistician is a person whose lifetime ambition is to be wrong 5% of the time.
- ✔ Every proof is a one liner, provided that you start sufficiently to the left.
- ✔ For a good prime call, 555.793.7359
- ✔ Graphing rational functions is a pain in the asymptote.
- ✔ Klein bottle for rent. Apply within.
- ✔ The highest moments in the life of a mathematician are the first few moments after one has proved the result, but before one finds the mistake.

-✻✻✻-

The Golden Rule of Mathematics

You must tell the truth, and nothing but the truth, but not the whole truth.

-✻✻✻-

Some Math Riddles

☞ ***Why did the chicken cross the Möbius strip?***
To get to the same side.

☞ ***What is a lemma?***
A bashful theorem.

Math Humor

Landre

☞ ***What do you call a young eingensheep?***
A lamb, duh!

☞ ***What is zenophobia?***
The irrational fear of convergent sequences.

☞ ***Why did the calculus student have so much trouble making Kool-Aid?***
Because he couldn't figure out how to get a quart of water into the little package.

☞ ***Why didn't Newton discover group theory?***
Because he wasn't Abel.

☞ ***What is purple and commutes?***
An abelian grape.

☞ ***How many mathematical logicians does it take to replace a light bulb?***
None. They can't do it, but they can prove that it can be done.

☞ ***What is the difference between a door and a set?***
A door is always open or closed.

☞ ***How do we know the following fractions are in Europe?***
A/C, X/C & W/C
Because their numerators are all over C's.

☞ ***What do you get when you cross a mountain climber with a mosquito?***
Nothing, you can't cross a scalar with a vector.

☞ ***What should you do when it rains?***
Coincide.

☞ ***What is ...***

$$15-3x5+20-4x5+36-9x4+72-9x8+56-7x8+21-7x3$$

Alot of work for nothing.

☞ ***What is the difference between philosphy and mathematics?***
Philosophy is a game with objectives and no rules.
Mathematics is a game with rules and no objectives.

☞ ***How can you tell that you are in the hands of the Mathematical Mafia?***
They make you an offer you can't understand.

☞ ***What is the difference between the radius and the diameter of a circle?***
The radius.

☞ ***What do you call a crushed angle?***
A rectangle.

☞ ***What did the Italian say when the witch doctor removed the curse?***
Hexagon.

☞ ***What do you call more than one £?***
A parallel.

☞ ***What do you call people who are in favor of tractors?***
Protractors.

☞ ***What is a polar bear?***
A rectangular bear after a coordinate transformation.

☞ ***What does an analytic number theorist say when he is drowning?***
Log-log, log-log, log-log...

Math Humor

Candre

☞ ***What do you get if you add sixty female pigs and forty male deer?***
A hundred sows and bucks!

☞ ***What math is discussed among seabirds?***
Intergull calculus.

☞ ***What is the opposite of a stop sign?***
Cosine.

☞ ***What are eye glasses good for?***
Division.

☞ ***What's the difference between an extroverted mathematician and an introverted mathematician?***
The extroverted mathematician will look at YOUR feet when s/he is talking to you.

☞ ***How can you tell that Harvard was designed by a mathematician?***
The div school (divinity school) is right next to the grad school.

☞ ***What did the mathematician decide to name his bakery?***
House of Pi.

☞ ***What is yellow and has a power series expansion about each point?***
A bananalytic function.

☞ ***What is grey and huge and has integer coefficients?***
An elephantine equation.

☞ ***What is polite and works for the phone company?***
A deferential operator.

☞ ***Which knight built the round table?***
Sir Cumference.

☞ ***Who invented fractions?***
Henry the 1/8.

☞ ***How many sides does a dodecagon have?***
Two. The inside and the outside.

☞ ***What is a proof?***
One-half percent of alcohol.

☞ ***What is a dilemma?***
A lemma that proves two results.

☞ ***What is the difference between a lemma and a proposition?***
You'll never hear a lemma at a bar.

☞ ***Why do MacClaurin series fit their functions so well?***
They're Taylor made for them.

☞ ***What did the mathematician say when he let epsilon go to zero?***
Whoops! There goes the neighborhood!

☞ ***What is the following?***

$$ea + ea + ea + ea + \ldots$$
$$ea + ea + ea + ea + \ldots$$
$$ea + ea + ea + ea + \ldots$$
$$ea + ea + ea + ea + \ldots$$

A Fourier Series.

☞ ***How does an algebraist express appreciation?***
Thanks. Thanks abelian.

-☆☆☆-

Pick-Up Lines to Use on Female Mathematicians

- You fascinate me more than the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.
- Are you a differentiable function? Because i would like to be tangent to your curves.
- You and I would add up better than a Riemann sum.
- Wanna come back to my room and see my copy of Euclid's *Elements?*
- I am equivalent to the empty set when you are not with me.

-✻✻✻-

Top 10 Ways We Do It...

10. Möbius always does it on the same side.
9. Algebraists do it in groups.
8. Combinatorists do it as many ways as possible.
7. Markov does it in chains.
6. Real analysists do it almost everywhere.
5. Statisticians do it with 95% confidence.
4. Logicians do it by choice.
3. Topologists do it openly.
2. Erdös does it with epsilons.
1. Mathematicians do not do it. They leave it as an exercise to the reader.

-✻✻✻-

Quotes from Professors

- "Probably the best way to see me face to face is to send me an e-mail."
- "Does everyone believe this? Good! Proof by democracy."
- "It's harder to draw in n-space, unless your are high."
- "Let's say you have a favorite m-vector sitting in your pocket and you want to extend its basis..."
- Student: "I don't understand what you just did."
  Professor: "That's right. You don't."
- "For the next hour I will be waving my hands."
- "Since you are only about a foot apart, this midterm is not a test of your knowledge, but more a test of your peripheral vision."
- "Let me put this in bad English: This series doesn't NOT converge...it's like saying, 'Yes, we have no bananas.'"
- "Mathematicians are very fond of being orthogonal."
- "If I can prove it, you are spared. If not, it's an exercise."
- "I can't explain this, but I think it is obvious."
- "Oh dear, where is my rifle?"

Math Humor

Landre

- "A mapping is 1 - 1 and onto if and only if it is 1 - 1 and onto."
- "You can sleep through this if you want to."
- "Will we all agree to shut that one up in a cupboard?"
- "Well, we can't quite stop yet - although I am tempted."
- "I worked it out last night - let's see if it works in the daylight."
- "The proof is not required for the final, but I'm going to give it anyway because it is nice."
- "If you want to cut corners, an intelligent corner to cut is not to learn the proofs of these theorems."
- "...and at this stage your heart should have a slight hiccup."
- "Now we'll prove the theorem. In fact, I'll prove it all myself."
- "Note that one must always have his sleeves rolled up for discussing this kind of thing."
- "You may feel that this is a little unclear, but in fact I am lecturing it extremely well."
- "This book is only for the serious enthusiast; I haven't read it myself."
- "This is going to be an adventure for you ... and for me."
- "I'm not going to say exactly what I mean, because I'm not absolutely certain myself."
- "It's dangerous to name your children until you know how many you are going to have."
- "You don't want to prove theorems that are false."
- "I, too, would like to know what a statistician actually does."
- "We're not doing mathematics; this is statistics."
- "My office hours are by appointment only."
  Translation: I like to get out of here early.
- "Everyone will prepare in-class oral presentations."
  Translation: This course is outside my speciality - I'll just bluff it and let you teach.
- "You'll have to see me during office hours for a thorough answer to your question"
  Translation: I don't know the answer.
- "The problems on the exam will be similar to those discussed in class. Of course, the numbers will be different. But not all of them. Pi will still be 3.14159..."
- "Be sure to show your work for partial credit. You guys live and die by partial credit... In fact, EVERYBODY lives and dies by partial credit. Nobody gets anything right anymore."
- "The largest matrix on the test will be a 3 x 3 or 4 x 4. This is a test, not real life."
- "We will prove this by the method of prolonged staring."

"The following proof is easiest to understand if chanted in Swahili."

-✻✻✻-

Students Comments

Professor: You aren't paying attention! Are you having trouble hearing?
Student: No, I'm having trouble listening.

Professor: Why are you late?
Student: Sorry, I overslept.
Professor: You mean you have to sleep at home, too?

Professor: You missed class yesterday, didn't you?
Student: Not very much.

Professor: I hope I didn't see you looking at Megan's paper.
Student: I hope you didn't see me either!

Student: I don't think I deserved a zero on that last quiz.
Professor: I agree, but that was the lowest grade I could give you.

Professor: Why can't you answer any of my questions?
Student: Well, if I could, there wouldn't be much point in me being here!

Professor: Are you in the top half of your class?
Student: No, I'm one of the students who make the top half possible.

Professor: Are you good in math?
Student: Yes and no.

Professor: What do you mean?
Student: Yes, I'm no good at math!

-✻✻✻-

Proofs that 7 x 13 = 28

(from the movie "In the Navy" starring Abbott and Costello)

```
  13          13
  13          x 7
  13          21
  13          + 7
  13          28
  13
+ 13
  28
```

(3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3) +
(1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1)

-✻✻✻-

Variations of SOHCAHTOA

The Cat Sat
On An Orange
And Howled Hard

Silly Old Hitler
Caused Awful Headaches
To Our Airman

Some Old Horse
Caught Another Horse
Taking Oats Away

-✻✻✻-

An Amazing Prediction

1. Pick a number between 2 and 9.
2. Multiply it by 9.

3. Add the two digits of this product.
4. Subtract 5.
5. Find the letter of the alphabet corresponding to your result. (a = 1, b = 2, ... z = 26)
6. Name a country beginning with this letter.
7. Name an animal that begins with the last letter of the country you chose.
8. Name a color that begins with the last letter of the animal you chose.

(See last page for explanation.)

-✱✱✱-

Mnemonic for π

This appeared in Nature, October 20, 1994 and is a quote from G. F Hull's "An Elementary Survey of Modern Physics."

Qui j'aime à faire apprendre un nombre util
aux sages!
Immortel Archimède, artiste ingénieur
Qui de ton jugement peut priser la valeur?
Pour moi, ton problème eut de parieiles
avantages.

-✱✱✱-

Quotable Quotes

- If I have seen farther than others, it is because I stood on the shoulders of giants.

  -- Isaac Newton

  If I have not seen as far as others, it is because giants were standing on my shoulders.

  -- Hal Abelson

  In computer science, we stand on each other's feet.

  -- Brian K. Reid

- The four branches of arithmetic - ambition, distraction, uglification and derision.

  -- Lewis Caroll
  (Alice in Wonderland)

- The two most common things in the Universe are hydrogen and stupidity.

  -- Halan Ellison

- A recent USA Today poll reports that 3 out of 4 people make up 75% of the population.

  -- David Letterman

- Everything good is either illegal, immoral, or equivalent to the Axiom of Choice."

  -- Josh Laison

- In mathematics you don't understand things. You just get used to them.

  -- Johann von Neumann

- A person who can, within a year, solve $x^2 - 92y^2 = 1$ is a mathematician.

  -- Brahmagupta

- A mathematician is a device for turning coffee into theorems.

  -- Paul Erdös

- A man whose mind has gone astray should study mathematics.

  -- Francis Bacon

- For people with small horizons, every function is constant.

  -- Oscar Bruno

- There are two kinds of results in mathematics: those that are obvious

and those that are false.
-- Ron Getoor

-✱✱✱-

Helping Your Students Write Mathematics

Give your students this list to improve their technical writing skills.

1. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
2. Never use a preposition to end a sentence with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. Be more or less specific.
5. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
6. All generalizations are bad.
7. Don't use no double negatives.
8. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
9. Never use big words when substituting a diminutive one would suffice.
10. Proofread carefully to make sure you didn't any words out.

-✱✱✱-

Two Great Sequences

➤ O, T, T, F, F, S, S, ...

➤ 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, ...

-✱✱✱-

True Stories?

➢ Albert Einstein, who fancied himself as a violinist, was rehearsing a Haydn string quartet. When he failed for the fourth time to get his entry into the second movement, the cellist looked up and said, "Tje problem with you, Albert, is that you simply can't count."

➢ Enrico Fermi, while studying at college, was bored with his math classes. He walked up to the professor and said, "My classes are too easy!" The prof looked at him, and said, "Well, I'm sure you'll find this intersting.? He copied nine problems from a book and gave the pages to Fermi.

A month later the professor ran into Fermi. "So how are you doing with the problems?"

"Oh, they are really hard. I have only managed to solve six of them."

The professor was visibly shocked. "What? Those are unsolved problems!"

➢ Sierpinski was always rather absent minded. On one occasion, he had to move to a new residence. His wife didn't trust him, so as they waited at the curb for the taxi she said, "You stand here and watch the ten trunks while I go and lock up."

She left him gazing into space and humming absently.

When she returned, he asked "I thought you said there were ten trunks, but I've only counted nine."

Panicked that someone might have stolen a trunk, his wife demanded "No, there were TEN!"

"No, no," he said. "Just count them. 0, 1, 2, ...

➢ When Hugo Steinhaus failed to attend an important meeting of the Committe of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1960, he received a letter chiding him for "not having justified his absence." He immediately wired the President of the Academy that "as long as there are members who have not yet justified their presence, I do not need to justify my absence."

-✱✱✱-

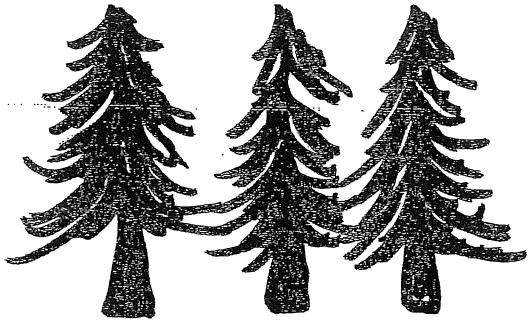
What Ph.D in Mathematics Really Stands for...

☆ Professorship? hah! Dream on!
☆ Please hire. Desperate.
☆ Probably headed for Divorce
☆ Permanent head Damage
☆ Pretty homely Dork
☆ Potential heavy Drinker
☆ Pretty heavy Diploma
☆ Pizza hut Driver

-✧✧✧-

Forest Math

1. What quantity does this drawing represent?



2. A dust storm blows through. Now how much do you have?

3. Some birds go flying by and leave their droppings, one per tree. Now how much do you have?

(answers on the last page)

-☆☆☆-

What Do You Make?

Dinner guests were discussing education. A male CEO explained his views.

"What kid is going to learn from someone who decided their best option in life was to become a teacher. Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

He turned to a teacher at the table and asked her, "Be honest. What do you make?"

"You Know what I make?"
"I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could."
"I make a C+ seem like a Congressional Medal of Honor to a struggling student and an A- seem like a slap in the face if they didn't do their best."
"I can make students sit for 45 minutes in silence during a study hall."
"I can make parents tremble when I call home."
"I make kids wonder, question, criticize, analyse, and apologize."
"You know what I make?"
"I make a difference. What about you?"

-✧✧✧-

After Receiving an Invitation to a Mathematician's Ball...

- Augustin Louis Cauchy said he surely will manage to integrate well with everyone.
- David Hilbert was afraid he would be pretty spaced out for most of the party.
- John Forbes Nash insisted on playing n-person zero sum games.
- Zeno of Elea said he would go with two friends - Achilles and the tortoise.
- Bertrand Russell was wondering "If the cook only cooks for the guests, who cooks for the cook?"
- Kurt Gödel insisted that the invitation was incomplete and never will be.
- Paul Erdös asked, "Are epsilons invited, too?"

-✧✧✧-

Jokes

- A mathematician wandered home at 3 AM. His wife became very upset, telling him, "You're late! You said you would be home by 11:45!"

  The mathematician replied, "I'm right on time. I said I would be home by a quarter of twelve!"

- A mathematician, statistician and accountant were finalists for a position as VP in a large corporation. The hiring committee asked them all the same question: "How much is 500 plus 500?"

  The mathematician replied without hesitation, "1000." They dismissed him.

  The statistician said, "1000 with 95% confidence." They dismissed him.

  The accountant said, "What would you like it to be?" They hired him.

- René Descartes went into his favorite bar and the bartender asked "Would you like your usual drink, Monsieur Descartes?" Descartes replied, "I think not" and promptly disappeared.

- Little boy: "My math teacher is crazy!"
  Mother: "Why?"
  Little boy: "Yesterday she told us five is 1 + 4; today she is telling us that five is 2 + 3!"

- Answer: "9-K"
  Question: "Karl, do you spell your name with a C?"

- In the Garden of Eden, God is giving Adam a geometry lesson: "Two parallel lines intersect at infinity. It can't be proved, but I've been there."

- An astronomer, a physicist and a mathematician were vacationing in Scotland. Glancing from the train window, they observed a black sheep in the middle of a field.

  ASTRONOMER: "How interesting, all Scottish sheep are black."

  PHYSICIST: "No, no! Some Scottish sheep are black."

MATHEMATICIAN: "In Scotland, there exists at least one field, containing at least one sheep, at least one side of which is black."

- A mathematician was showing his fourteen year old daughter how to use a calculator and he asked her "What is the sin(40)?"
The daughter replied, "Over the hill?"

- A little girl asked her grandmother to help her find the lowest common denominator for a homework problem. The grandmother replied, "Haven't they found that yet? They were looking for it when I was in school!"

- A calculus student was helping his father with a home project. His dad asked him to get a half-inch wrench. The son returned and said "I couldn't find a half-inch wrench, but here are two quarter-inch wrenches."

- i M A π ρ maniac. R U_o 1, 2? y_o.

- Sister Mary Thaddeus asked her second graders, "Who would like to do the first problem - addition?"

  No one raised their hand. She called on Vanessa, and who, with a little help, finally got the right answer.

  "Who would like to do the second problem - subtraction?"

  Students hid their faces. She called on Juan who got the right answer with a little help from his friend.

  "Who would like to do the third problem - division?"

  The class groaned. Michelle finally volunteered the correct answer.

  "Who would like to do the last problem - multiplication?"

  Rick's hand shot up, surprising everyone in the room. Sister Mary Thaddeus asked him "Why the enthusiasm, Rick?"

  He replied, "God said go fourth and multiply!"

- Transitivity! If a = b and b = c then a = c.
Transitivity? If Marie loves John, and John loves Nancy, then Marie loves Nancy.

- A student had had it with making graph after graph in a college algebra class. He finally told his professor, "I'll do algebra, I'll do trig, and I'll even do statistics. But graphing is where I draw the line!"

- Years ago, several Polish scientists decided to flee their repressive government by hijacking an airliner and forcing the pilot to fly them t a western country. They went to the airport, forced their way onto a large passenger jet, and found there was no pilot on board. Terrified, they listened as the sirens got louder. Finally one of the scientists suggested that since he was an experimentalist, he would try to fly the aircraft.

  He sat down at the controls and tried to figure them out. The sirens got louder and louder. Armed men surrounded the jet. The scientists screamed, "Please, please take off! Hurry!"

  The experimentalist calmly replied,

"Have patience. I'm just a simple Pole in a complex plane."

- Q: Do politicians exist who do nothing at all?
  A: Yes, because they're Lie groups.

- The absent minded mathematics professor paused to chat awhile with one of his students. He asked, "Which way was I going when I stopped to talk to you?"

  "That way," the student replied.

  "Good," said the professor, "then I've had my lunch."

- A young math professor decides to make use of her psychology classes. She says to her students, "Everyone who thinks you're stupid, stand up."

  After a few seconds Matt stood up. The teacher asked, "Do you think you are stupid, Matt?"

  "No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing up all by yourself.

- Two unbiased estimators were sitting in a bar. The first says, "So how do you like married life?" The other replied, "It's pretty good if you don't mind giving up that one degree of freedom."

- A statistician's wife had twins and he was delighted. He called his minister to give him the news. The minister told him to bring the twins to church on Sunday and he would baptize them.

  "No," replied the statistician, "Baptize one. We'll keep the other as a control."

- A mathematician was giving a talk for a general audience, but he didn't expect a large croud since the title of his talk was **Convex Sets and Inequalities.**

  To his surprise, the auditorium was crammed when he arrived. After he finished, someone in the audience raised his hand.

  "But you didn't talk about the actual topic of your talk!"

  "What topic do you mean?"

  "Well, the one that was announced - **Convicts, Sex and Inequality**."

- Three mathematicians walk into a bar.

  ...You would have thought that the third one would have ducked.

- A mathematician, down on his luck, takes on a job as a photocopier repairman. After his first day on the job, he receives an irate call from one of his customers.

  "The copy machine is still broken! It prints out each of my memos on a loop of paper with a half twist! What did I do?"

  "Ah," says the mathematician. "You must have set it to SINGLE SIDED COPY."

- At a large mathematical conference, a young mathematician is demonstrating his first new result to a gaggle of respected mathematicians.

  When he concludes his proof, someone in the audience interrupts him: "That proof is wrong - I have two counterexamples to your theorem."

"That's OK. I have three other proofs of it."

- A Neanderthal child rode to school with a boy from Hamilton. When his mother found out she said, "What did I tell you? If you commute with a Hamiltonian, you'll never evolve!"

- A female math professor said that her life is all math. "I am trying to add to my income, subtract from my weight, divide my time, and avoid multiplying."

-✱✱✱-

Why God Will Never Get Tenure

1. He published only one book.
2. It was in Hebrew.
3. It had no references.
4. Some doubt that He even wrote it Himself.
5. He is not known for his cooperative work.
6. When one experiment went awry, He tried to cover it up by drowning all the subjects.
7. He rarely comes to class - and just tells His students to read the Book.
8. Although He has only ten requirements, students often fail His tests.
9. His office hours are infrequent and usually held on a mountain top.
10. He expelled His first two students for learning.

-☆☆☆-

Answers to Forest Math:

1. 9, tree + tree + tree
2. 99, dirty tree + dirty tree + dirty tree
3. 100, dirty tree and a turd + dirty tree and a turd + dirty tree and a turd

An Amazing prediction: There are no orange kangaroos in Denmark!

Poetry

A conjecture both deep and profound
Is whether a circle is round.
In a paper of Erdös
Written in Kurdish
A counterexample is found.

~~~

It irked me since late in my teens
'Cause thinks simply ain't what they seems
This thing called ANOVA
They always fuss over
Is simply Analysis of Means.

~~~

He's teaching her arithmetic,
He said it was his mission,
He kissed her once, he kissed her twice
And said, "Now that's addition."

As he added smack by smack
In silent satisfaction,
She sweetly gave the kisses back
And said, "Now that's subtraction."

Then he kissed her, she kissed him,
Without an explanation,
And both together smiled and said,
"That's multiplication."

Then Dad appeared upon the scene and
Made a quick decision.
He kicked that kid three blocks away
And said, "That's long division!"

Math Humor

Landre

Mathematics: of sciences, queen
Has more rules than I've ever seen.
There are no exceptions,
Just number deceptions.
On calculators, I am quite keen.

A mathematician confided
That the Moebius band is one-sided
And you'll get quite a laugh
If you cut one in half
'Cause it stays in one piece when divided.

A mathematician named Klein
Thought the Moebius band was divine
Said he: "If you glue
The edges of two
You'll get a weird bottle like mine."

A go-go lap dancer, a pip,
Was able to peel in a zip.
But she read science fiction
And died of constriction
Attempting a Moebius strip.

The Moebius strip is a pain,
When you cut it again and again,
But if you should wedge
A large disk round the edge
Then you just get a projective plane.

If you have a cross-cap on your sphere,
And you give it a circle-shaped tear,
Then just shake it about
And untangle it out
And a Moebius strip will appear!

A mathematician named Crottle
Poured water into a Klein bottle.
When asked, "Do you doubt
That some will run out?"
He replied, "No, I don't. Quite a lot'll."

There was young maiden named List
Whose mouth had a funny half-twist.
She'd turned both her lips
Into Moebius strips...
'Til she's kissed you, you haven't been kissed!

A challenge for many long ages
Had baffled the savants and sages.
Yet at last came the light:
Seems old Fermat was right--
To the margin add 200 pages.

A calc student upset as could be
That his antiderivative didn't agree
With the one in the book
E'en aft one more look.
Oh! Seems he forgot to write the "+ C".

A graduate student from Trinity
Computed the cube of infinity;
But it gave him the fidgets
To write down all those digits,
So he dropped math and took up divinity.

A mathematician called Bird,
Had students who thought him absurd.
There were cries of derision
When he said long division,
Meant one into one made a third.

A mathematician called Rumbold,
One day, quite by accident, stumbled
On the Meaning of Life,
Then went on, for his wife,
To find out why all her apple pies crumbled.

To a tightrope walker named Zekund
The a due to gravity beckoned.
His performance was great
At about 9.8
Meters per second per second.

Consider the pitiful plight
Of a runner who wasn't too bright.
For he sprinted so fast,
That he vanished at last
By red-shifting himself out of sight.

In the near-light speed space-ship I'm in,
I went rocketting off from my twin;
But since I've been away
I've aged hardly a day
And just look at the state that he's in!

Math Humor
Landre

[The following ditty was written by John Saxon (an author of math textbooks) to express the following identity:]

$$\frac{12 + 144 + 20 + (3 \times \sqrt{4})}{7} + (5 \times 11) = 9^2 + 0$$

A Dozen, a Gross and a Score,
plus three times the square root of four,
divided by seven,
plus five times eleven,
equals nine squared and not a bit more.

[Here's a less trivial identity put to rhyme:]

$$\int_1^{\sqrt[3]{3}} z^2\,dz \times \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{9}\right) = \log\sqrt[3]{e}$$

Integral *z*-squared dz
from 1 to the cube root of 3
times the cosine
of three *pi* over 9
equals log of the cube root of *e*.

Euclid drew a circle

Old Euclid drew a circle
On a sand-beach long ago.
He bounded and enclosed it
With angles thus and so.
His set of solemn greybeards
Nodded and argued much
Of arc and of circumference,
Diameter and such.
A silent child stood by them
From morning until noon
Because they drew such charming
Round pictures of the moon.

Vachel Lindsay

'Tis a favorite project of mine
A new value of *pi* to assign.
I would fix it at 3
For it's simpler, you see,
Than 3.14159...

If inside a circle a line
Hits the center and goes spine to spine
And the line's length is *d*
the circumference will be
d times 3.14159...

If (1+ *x*) (real close to 1)
Is raised to the power of 1
Over *x*, you will find
Here's the value defined:
2.718281...

Chebychev said it and I'll say it again:
There's always a prime between *n* and 2*n*.

Songs

Aleph-null bottles of beer on the wall,
Aleph-null bottles of beer,
You take one down, and pass it around,
Aleph-null bottles of beer on the wall.

The derivative song

[A Tom Lehrer ditty. It appeared in the American Mathematical Monthly, 81 (1974) 490.]

(To the tune of "There'll Be Some Changes Made.")

You take a function of *x* and you call it *y*,
Take any *x*-nought that you care to try,
You make a little change and call it delta *x*,
The corresponding change in *y* is what you find nex',
And then you take the quotient and now carefully
Send delta *x* to zero, and I think you'll see
That what the limit gives us, if our work all checks,
Is what we call *dy/dx*,
It's just *dy/dx*.

Mathematical christmas carol: Calculus

(Sung to the tune of Jingle Bells)

Looking for the tangent
It's really *m* we seek
With epsilon and delta
Mathematics looks like Greek

Trying to find a limit
Everything gets small
If you can't determine it
You land in L'Hopital

Calculus, Calculus
Let us celebrate
Riemann Sums, so much fun
We can integrate

Hey!

Calculus, Calculus
Let us celebrate
dx, dy, dz, dt
We love related rates

Calc 2 is coming next
The really fun stuff starts
Integral *x* sin(*x*)
Only works in parts

Summing the series harmonic
The terms keep getting small
But isn't it ironic?
It won't converge at all

Calculus, Calculus
Put your mind at rest
Most divergent series fail
The Root or Ratio Test

Hey!

Calculus, Calculus
While we sing this song
We can sum $(1/2)^n$
It won't take all day long

Now on to Calc 3
Learning spheres and cones
Maximizing functions
With seventeen unknowns

Fancy vector fields
Finding flux of curl
Using Mr. Stokes
Over a circle

Calculus, Calculus
Ain't it really cool
Gauss and Green are really keen
Don't take them for fools

Hey!

Calculus, Calculus
Ain't it really cool
f and *g*, composing thee
Time for the chain rule

written by Deborah Alterman, Martin Mohlenkamp, and Gareth Roberts (all rights reserved).]